

Q. I didn't sleep one wink last night, but if I sleep on the flight home, I won't sleep when I get home, and I have to be at the office at 6:15 a.m.

The President. You're going to go around the clock?

Q. Well, I might try.

The President. I'm actually promoting—I've obviously got a nap on my mind. [Laughter] I was just trying to, like, plant the seed.

Yes, Rog [Roger Runningen, Bloomberg News].

U.S. View of the President's Visit to Africa

Q. I want to go back to Africa. You talked about Americans and their generosity—

The President. What's that?

Q. Americans and their generosity—what do you think that Americans think of your trip?

The President. I don't have any idea. What are you writing about it? I don't know what they think of it. Ask another question. I really don't know. I'm focused on the trip.

When I get home, I pick up a book and start reading it, and I'm sound asleep shortly thereafter. So I'm not—I don't know. I really don't know.

The First Lady. Depends on what you all are showing.

The President. I don't know. I hope they think—here's what I hope they think: It's worthwhile to be supportive of a robust policy on the continent of Africa. It's worth our national security interest, and it's worth our interest to help people learn to read and write and save babies' lives from mosquito bites. That's what I hope they realize, and that's one of the main—that's a critical reason to go on the trip. I would hope that the country never says, well, it's not worth it over there, what happens over there—or it says, well, we've got to take care of our own first, exclusively.

And my answer is, we can do both. We're a generous country. And we do, do both.

U.S. Aid for Africa

Q. Do you have everything in place so that the next the President, who might not look at Africa in the first 6 months—everything is in place to continue?

The President. —you know, getting this funding from PEPFAR. And I think we will. The PEPFAR program has been great. It's a bipartisan success. Congress funded the thing—not the “thing,” Congress funded the program, and they ought to take great pride in the success of PEPFAR. There's a process that goes on to get it reauthorized, and we'll try to get it funded, and will get it funded. I feel pretty good about getting it funded.

Same with the malaria initiative; it's making a huge difference, and the success is unbelievable. In Zanzibar, 20 percent of the kids were infected, had gotten malaria. Now it's one [percent] *, in a pretty quick period of time.

Okay, guys.

NOTE: The interview began at 4:42 p.m. en route from Monrovia, Liberia, to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, the President referred to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; musician and activist Robert Geldof; President Thomas Yayi Boni of Benin; President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; Senator Barack Obama of Illinois; Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi E. Frazer; and former Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. A reporter referred to Senator John McCain of Arizona. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 16

In the morning, while en route to Cotonou, Benin, aboard Air Force One, the President had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival at Cadjehoun International Airport, he and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony with President Thomas Yayi Boni

* White House correction.

of Benin and his wife, Chantal de Souza Yayi. He then met with President Yayi.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. They then traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where, upon arrival in the evening at Julius Nyerere International Airport, they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania and his wife, Salma Kikwete.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski Dar es Salaam.

February 17

In the morning, the President traveled to the State House, where he participated in a signing ceremony of the Millennium Challenge compact with President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania. Later, he returned to the Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski Dar es Salaam.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Embassy, where, in the memorial garden, they met with family members of victims of the 1998 Embassy bombing and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony for the victims. Later, in the atrium of the Embassy, they met with Embassy staff and their families. They then returned to the Kilimanjaro Hotel.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the State House, where they attended entertainment hosted by President Kikwete and his wife, Salma Kikwete. Later, they returned to the Kilimanjaro Hotel.

February 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arusha, Tanzania, where, upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, they attended a cultural performance.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush toured A to Z Textile Mills. Later, they traveled to the Arusha Coffee Lodge. They then visited the Maasai Girls School.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with Ann Curry of NBC's "Today" show. They then returned to the Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski Dar es Salaam in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, arriving in the evening.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush met with their niece, Ellie LeBlond, volunteer, India Howell, founder and executive director, and Nano Chatfield, chairman of the board of directors, Tanzanian Children's Fund.

February 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Julius Nyerere International Airport, where they participated in a departure ceremony with President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania and his wife, Salma Kikwete. They then traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, where, upon arrival at Kigali International Airport, they participated in an arrival ceremony and attended a cultural performance with President Paul Kagame and his wife, Jeannette Nyiramongi.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Kigali Memorial Centre, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the genocide memorial. Later, they traveled to the Presidency.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a signing ceremony of the Rwanda-U.S. Bilateral Investment Treaty with President Kagame. Later, he and Mrs. Bush attended a social lunch hosted by President Kagame and his wife, Jeannette.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the Lycee de Kigali and met with students involved in the Anti-Aids Club. Later, they traveled to Accra, Ghana, arriving in the evening. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Robert Geldof for *Time* magazine.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel.

February 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Osu Castle, where he participated in an arrival ceremony with President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana. Later, he traveled to the U.S. Embassy, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

In the afternoon, in the Ambassador's Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush met

with Embassy staff and their families. Later, they traveled to the International Trade Fair Center, where they visited with USAID West Africa Trade Hub beneficiaries. They then toured the center and met with 30 tribal chiefs.

Later in the afternoon, they traveled to the Ghana International School. They then returned to the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the State Banquet Hall. Later, they returned to the La Palm Hotel.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Monrovia, Liberia. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to discuss the results of Pakistan's February 18 parliamentary elections.

Later in the morning, upon arrival at Spriggs Payne Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. He then traveled to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he met with President Johnson Sirleaf.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Executive Mansion, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. They then participated in a gowning and investiture ceremony.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Barclay Training Center, where they met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, they traveled to the University of Liberia. They then returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding on February 5 and 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen McFarland to be Ambassador to Guatemala.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald E. Booth to be Ambassador to Zambia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gillian A. Milovanovic to be Ambassador to Mali.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy E. McEldowney to be Ambassador to Bulgaria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scot A. Marciel to be given the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Ambassador for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint John J. Sullivan as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members on the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy: Michael R. Hightower; Nancy L. Johnson; J. Patrick Michaels, Jr.; and Anthony Joseph Principi.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi E. Frazer